

**ADA Self-Evaluation & Transition Plan
Stakeholder Group – Listening Session
Thursday, February 25, 2021
2:00 – 3:00 PM**

Meeting Agenda

AGENDA ITEMS

- 1) Welcome and Introductions (5 minutes)
 - Check-in question to guide meeting format – Have you had an opportunity to become familiar with Lynnwood’s ADA Transition Plan?
- 2) Brief Project Overview (5-10 minutes)
- 3) Discussion – (45-40 minutes)
 - Has the plan provided you a clear understanding of the City’s responsibilities as they pertain to the Americans with Disabilities Act and the City’s plan of action?
 - Do you have any specific questions for the City’s staff and their consultant?

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Catalina Angel, Whitney Stohr, Sarah Keogh, Amie Hanson, PE (City's Project Manager), Curt Russell (Safety Officer, ADA Coordinator), Heather Buczek (consultant MIG), Hayden Agnew-Wieland (consultant MIG)

Summary

The meeting began with introductions and discussion of each person's interest in the project, followed by a brief presentation that provided an overview of the ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan (SETP) project. Stakeholders then provided comments on the draft plan, with each stakeholder voicing support for the Plan. Concerns and suggestions for revisions are summarized below.

Public Hearing Accessibility/Online Meetings

Stakeholders noted one side effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, having all public meetings online, has been beneficial for some people with disabilities who wish to attend. Being able to participate with an online option helps those with limited mobility and increases inclusivity for all. While much of the SETP process occurred pre-pandemic, stakeholders would like the inclusion of a recommendation of always offering a Zoom/online meeting option for people at home, even after returning to "normal" when City meetings are held in-person again.

Providing Materials in Alternative Formats

Stakeholders noted that the current wording in the Plan surrounding alternative formats is "provide alternative formats upon request." This language can perhaps make it seem like the City does not have an obligation to provide alternative formats of materials otherwise. Stakeholders want the City to be proactive about making materials accessible to all so that it is not on those with disabilities to always request accessible formats.

Accessible Playgrounds

Stakeholders noted a complete lack of accessible playgrounds at Lynnwood parks, even at facilities labeled as such, and requested these be prioritized so that children in wheelchairs may participate.

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Avoiding Discrimination Related to Program Participation

Stakeholders raised concern over potential discrimination where City staff may improperly decide to exclude a person with disabilities for safety reasons—for example, determining that allowing an individual with disabilities to participate would create a hazard, based on stereotypes that people with disabilities are fragile and could "break" if included in mainstream programs. A suggestion is to ensure programs are inclusively designed and planned so that city staff does not have to make such decisions to discriminate accidentally.

- City staff noted that one of the primary functions of staff training to avoid this. Lynnwood staff have undergone some customer service training and are exploring more training opportunities in the future for staff to help achieve program accessibility.

Providing Ongoing Input for Implementation/Barrier Removal

Stakeholders asked if there will be any group responsible for monitoring the Plan's implementation in the future. The City has an internal standing working group that meets regularly to discuss barrier removal. Though these meetings are for staff members, all participants agreed that continually reaching out to stakeholders in the disability community is crucial for plan implementation, and the potential for ongoing/occasional stakeholder meetings was discussed.

- For now, stakeholders are encouraged to reach out to the ADA Coordinator at any time with suggestions or concerns. The ADA Coordinator is available to schedule a meeting to discuss specifics of certain parks or any aspect of plan implementation.